



**Gallatin County Weed Board  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
March 01, 2012**

**Board** members present were Fred Bell (Chair), Craig Morgan, Bob Hofman and Keith Mainwaring. Jeff Littlefield and Commissioner Skinner were excused. **Others** present were Michelle Dammen (Conservation District), John Ansley (Coordinator) and Rosemary Perry (Secretary). Michael Jones was excused.

**Minutes.** The Minutes of the February Meeting had been sent to the Board and were approved as presented.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Enforcement Update.** The documents are at the Count Attorney's office being reviewed.
2. **Extension and Gravel Pit Fee Update.** Ansley brought up the Board discussion regarding the fees from the February Board meeting. We are waiting for the County Attorney to research the fee issue; however Ansley would like the Board to make a decision on fee levels so that once we get word from the Attorney we can move forward. Craig Morgan moved that we charge the same fees for Extensions of Weed Management Plans as we do for the original Weed Management Plan Review (\$150 for a Minor and \$300 for a Major) and that we put a review fee in place for gravel pits of \$150 for a new Weed Management Plan and \$100 per pit per year for inspections for certification based on the County Attorney's findings. Keith Mainwaring seconded and after discussion the motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Public Comment/Other.** Michelle Dammen (CD) reported that the Conservation District Board has approved their new work plan and they are moving ahead towards their goals. They are hoping to be in their new building by September. Dammen is planning on holding educational workshops including one on pasture management and weeds in May. The CD has approved a cost share program for conservation which includes weed control, fencing of riparian areas, repairing streambanks etc. The process and forms are being reevaluated.
2. **Monthly Report Q&A.**
  - Bell asked if we had received the funding for the Bridger WMA. Ansley informed him that we wouldn't know until April.
  - Bell asked if the insulation of the Shop had helped the utility bills. It has made a difference and Ansley and Jones can now work over there in the winter.
  - Bell asked about the University District Major development. Ansley explained the project which is just south of MSU.

- Bell asked about the Brookshire Major Subdivision extension of the WMP. The subdivision was split into Phase 1 and 2 and the Weed District was not aware of this. Phase 2 is the area requiring the extension and we do not have a Weed Management Plan for the change in the development. There was a miscommunication between Planning and Weeds and this has been rectified.
  - Bell asked about the Conservation District meeting noting the funding for the Big Sky Weed Committee was not continued. The Conservation District is trying to get away from being a funding source and develop their own programs. The Big Sky Weed Committee will still apply for funding from the Resort Tax and look for alternative funding from other areas.
  - Bell asked about the Wildhorse Trail subdivision. The subdivision is in the Belgrade area and has spotted knapweed problems that the homeowners are working on.
  - Morgan asked about the purchase of the truck from Ressler. We had been told that they had not received payment; however when Perry checked with the County Treasurer the check had cleared the bank earlier in the month. Ressler has been made aware of this and will drop the paperwork off at motor vehicle so we can get it licensed.
- 3. Reminder – rescheduled April Board Meeting.** Ansley reminded the Board that the April Meeting has been rescheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 4. Commissioner Report.** None.
- 5. Coordinator(s) Report.**
- NWTf Hearing was held in Helena. Ansley and Jones both participated and Peter Brown (GVLt) accompanied them to support the project.
  - Organizers of the Spring Home and Garden Show came into office to ask if we could fill up an empty booth space for them. We had wanted a booth at this show but did not have the budget so this was a bonus. Perry set up the booth as Ansley and Jones were at the Trust Fund hearings in Helena.
  - EWM Task Force Meeting. This meeting was well attended by representatives from many Agencies and Weed Districts at the Extension Office in Whitehall. An overview of the 2011 survey findings was presented and it has been determined that at this point the upstream source appears to be in the Jefferson Slough. Bell asked if there were any problems in Hebgen Lake. Ansley informed him that curly leaf pondweed had been found in the Grayling Arm but at this point we just need to monitor it. There is another Task Force meeting to be held on March 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - GVLt Booth and Breakfast. This is an event mainly for the conservation easement holders and Ansley and Jones were invited to have an educational table at the event.
  - The MWCA Spring Coordinator Training will be held in Butte this year on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - Commercial Applicator Training. We will be hosting the Southwest Area Commercial Applicator Training at the Fairgrounds this year on March 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Weed Manager’s Meeting will be held at the Bozeman Library on April 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - Crew Update. We have 2 returnees this year. We have interviewed a candidate who has worked for Hill County for 2 years and have an interview with another candidate on Monday who has worked for Madison County.
  - Sprayer Quotes. Ansley has contacted Warne Chemical and Ag West regarding quotes for a 300 gallon sprayer for the new truck. Warne has come in at \$6100 and Ag West quoted

\$4990 for a sprayer with the same specs. Mainwaring asked if it was the same engine and it is. The Board felt that if the quality is the same we need to go with Ag West.

- **ATV Quotes.** Ansley informed the Board that we had been approached by the Auditor's office regarding selling one of our ATVs to the Facilities Department and upgrading. Facilities staff have inspected the 2003 Honda ATV and offered \$2000 for it. Ansley has been researching prices for Honda ATVs and Yamahas. The Yamahas are considerably cheaper and have a higher ground clearance than the Hondas. After much discussion the Board decided that if Blackman (Finance Director) felt it was feasible we should go ahead and upgrade the 2003 Honda to the 2012 450 Yamaha using Special County Grant Funds and the \$2000 from Facilities.
- **MACo Meeting in Helena.** Ansley and Jones attended a MACo Meeting with other Weed Coordinators and the Department of Agriculture to discuss the Weed Law and how it affects municipalities. The State statute says that Weed Districts need to have a written agreement; however Weed Districts do not have the manpower or funding to do noxious weed control in municipalities. Municipalities also have ordinances addressing weeds. Bell felt that the staff needs to put together an agreement stating that we will give assistance in certain areas and ask if they municipality has any specific areas that are a problem for them.

#### **6. Round Table.**

- An Agenda for the Commissioner and Board Training in Missoula was passed around. Commissioner Skinner is planning to attend.
- Ansley brought the Board up to date on the hay ground that was sprayed in the Regional Park in 2011. It was sprayed with Chaparral and at the time there were no grazing restrictions on the herbicide label. The label has since been revised and the hay cannot be moved off site without supplemental labeling.
- Bell announced that he would like to go into executive session after the meeting to go over Ansley's annual review with him.
- Mainwaring announced that comments made by Blackman and the Commissioners on the budget sound like the budget will be getting worse.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15PM

The next meeting will be April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary